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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

A ring network, which can reduce the amount of processing, deal with the occurrence of faults, and lighten the load on an operator, ~~comprised with~~ includes a plurality of transmission apparatuses each including a cross-connect function unit and a communication function unit for sending and receiving messages using the overhead of an SDH frame, and a master transmission apparatus to which a command is input for switching from a UPSR to BLSR mode including a path management database, a path decision unit, and an interchange decision unit. The master transmission apparatus to which ~~[[said]] the command has been~~ is input ~~[[for]] collect[[ing]]s~~ and stor[[ing]]es path setting information of all of the transmission apparatuses in the path management database and sequentially perform[[ing]]s processing for deciding on and deleting a long path and processing for interchanging a path on a protection channel to an idle work channel by sending and receiving a message.

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